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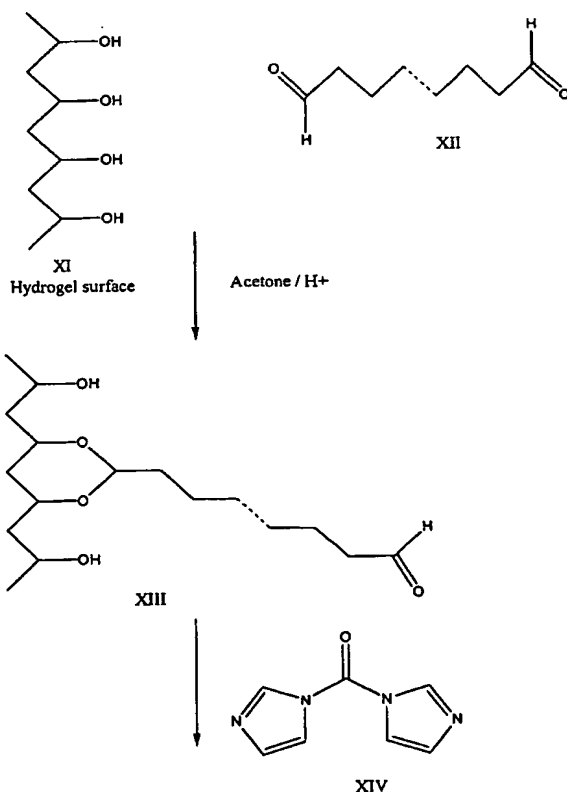
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(54) Title: **DERIVATISED HYDROGELS AND THEIR USE**



(57) **Abstract:** A method of derivatising a hydrogel such as cross-linked polyvinylalcohol hydrogel comprises reducing the level of encapsulated water in the hydrogel and treating the material with a derivatisation means which comprise an active material such as an amino acid, peptide or protein. The polymeric material prepared may be used in "smart" dressings.



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